



ASSOCIATION of
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

The voice of fish and wildlife agencies

Hall of the States
444 North Capitol Street, NW
Suite 725 • Washington, D.C. 20001
Phone: 202-624-7890
Fax: 202-624-7891
E-mail: info@fishwildlife.org
www.fishwildlife.org

May 7, 2008

Mr. Ken Haddad
Executive Director
Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
Bryant Building-Headquarters
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399 1600

Dear Ken:

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies expresses its sincere appreciation to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for its assistance in generating research data necessary to support U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of drugs for use in aquaculture. More specifically, we would like to acknowledge the recent (and ongoing) efforts of Michael Matthews and his staff (Josh Sakmar and Justin Elkins) at the Richloam Fish Hatchery (Florida Bass Conservation Center).

In a letter to all state fisheries administrators dated January 5, 2007, the Drug Approval Working Group of the Fisheries and Water Resources Policy Committee requested assistance to help conduct field efficacy trials required to expand labels of forthcoming approvals for chloramine-T and 35% PEROX AID[®] (hydrogen peroxide) for use in cool- and warmwater finfish. Mr. Matthews and his staff "answered the call", and working in collaboration with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership Program, not only completed several studies in 2007, but have committed to assist with additional studies in 2008.

Over the years, it has become abundantly clear that FDA-required field efficacy studies are best conducted at hatcheries rearing target fish species that experience recurring, somewhat predictable disease outbreaks. Successful studies of this type not only require access to hatcheries and staff willing to commit significant time and resources to this essential effort, but they also require a high degree of scientific rigor. Mr. Matthews and his staff are most certainly deserving of recognition for their efforts and dedication. It is also worthy to note that the contribution of Mr. Matthews and his staff was the only "active response" to our above-described request.

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As a direct result of the assistance provided by Richloam Fish Hatchery, it is anticipated that label claims for chloramine-T and 35% PEROX AID® will soon be expanded to include:

For chloramine-T

- For use to control mortality in all coolwater and warmwater finfish due to external columnaris disease

For 35% PEROX AID®

- For use to control mortality in all warmwater finfish due to external columnaris disease

Based on previously conducted research, it is anticipated that the claims for 35% PEROX AID® and chloramine-T will ultimately be expanded to allow for use to control mortality in (1) all freshwater salmonids caused by bacterial gill disease, and (2) all cool- and warmwater finfish caused by external columnaris. Such broad approvals will not only provide access to needed therapeutants at the Richloam Fish Hatchery, but also benefit the entire U. S. aquaculture industry. These goals are much more realistic with the contributions and commitment of your staff. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Matt Hogan
Executive Director

Cc: Darrell Scovell, Director of Freshwater Fisheries
Rick Stout, Florida Bass Conservation Center
Ron Regan, AFWA
Virgil Moore, Fisheries and Water Resources Policy Committee Chair
✓ Steve Sharon, Drug Approval Working Group Chair
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